

APPLICATION (Revised April 2008)  
21<sup>ST</sup> CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE

RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC IF THE APPLICANT IS  
SELECTED AS A NOMINEE.



Name: Lawrence Jeffrey Permuter

1. State your present principal occupation:

Attorney at Law.

2. Are you at least 25 years of age? Yes.

3. (a) How long have you been a citizen of the United States?

61 years

- (b) Have you been a resident of the County of St. Louis for at least one year immediately prior to the date of this application?

Yes

- (c) How long have you been a qualified voter of Missouri?

40 years

4. Are you licensed to practice law in Missouri?

Yes.

List any other states, courts, or agencies in which you are licensed as an attorney:

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

5. State the date you were admitted to the Bar in Missouri?

September, 1973

Missouri Bar Number: 23054.

(In completing items 6 and 7, please account for all time periods between post-high school education and the date of this application.)

6. State the name and address of all colleges and universities you have attended, together with the dates and degrees received:

University of Missouri - Columbia  
127 Jesse Hall  
Columbia, Missouri 65211  
Date: 1965 until 1967  
Transferred to University of Missouri - St. Louis

University of Missouri - St. Louis  
8001 Natural Bridge  
St. Louis, Missouri 63121  
Date: 1969 until 1970  
Degree: Bachelor of Arts Degree

Washington University School of Law  
One Brookings Drive  
Campus Box 1120  
St. Louis, Missouri 63130  
Date: 1970 until 1973  
Degree: Juris Doctor Degree

7. State, in chronological order, your entire working career, including non-legal employment, if any. Include the name and address of each firm, corporation, partnership, or governmental body with which you have been associated, and the dates thereof. (Start with earliest date, conclude with present.)

From 1964 until approximately June 1965, I worked as a busboy at the Flaming Pit Restaurant on Clayton Road in St. Louis County. The restaurant no longer exists. I attended high school at the time and worked at the Flaming Pit on a part time basis during the school year and full time during the summer. From approximately the summer of 1966 until approximately June 1972 I worked as a Park Ranger for the National Park Service at the Gateway Arch. I attended college and law school at the time and worked part time during the school year and full time during the summers.

May 1973-February 1975:

Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority  
For the City of St. Louis  
Assistant to the General Counsel  
1300 Delmar  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

February 1975-August 1976:

Paskal, Edwards, Olian & Hadican  
Associate Attorney  
225 South Meramec  
Clayton, Missouri 63105

August 1976-November 1979:

Law Offices of J. Martin Hadican  
Associate Attorney  
225 South Meramec - Suite 832  
Clayton, Missouri 63105

November 1979-April 1992:

Klamen and Danna  
Formerly located: 150 North Meramec  
Clayton, Missouri 63105  
(In approximately 1990 the firm merged with  
another firm and became known as  
Klamen, Danna, Soraghan, Stockenberg,  
McKittrick & Shaw)

April 1992-October 1, 1994:

Nangle, Cooper, Niemann and Bitting  
120 S. Central Avenue  
Clayton, Missouri 63105

October 1994-March 2001:

Goffstein, Raskas, Pomerantz  
Kraus & Sherman, L.L.C.  
7701 Clayton Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63117-1371

March 2001-March 2003:

Hahn, Enright and Hansen  
701 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102



March 2003-present:

Goffstein, Raskas, Pomerantz  
Kraus & Sherman, L.L.C.  
7701 Clayton Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63117-1371.

8. Are you able, with or without a reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of a judge including the ability to preside over trials, perform legal research, attend court anywhere in the state, communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing, and expeditiously decide issues coming before the court?

Yes

9. Attach a list of cases you have tried in the last five years. Set for the style, cause number, date, and court, and identify who you represented, whether you were first or second chair, and the name and address of opposing counsel. Indicate for each case whether bench or jury tried and provide a one to three sentence description of each case and its outcome. If, during any of the last five years, you served as a commissioner or in any other judicial capacity, set forth the dates of same and a description of the duties performed.

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

10. Have you briefed or argued any case in an appellate court?

Yes

If yes, attach a list showing the citation for each case and describe the extent of your participation in briefing and arguing the case.

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "B"

11. Set forth any additional information that demonstrates the quality of your legal work as an attorney.

I have been a trial lawyer since 1973. In the course of my career I have tried a broad range of civil and criminal cases to conclusion. Civil cases I have tried include ones for breach of contract, fraud, violation of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Statute, bodily injury cases arising out of automobile accidents and premises liability, conversion cases, mechanics lien cases and many domestic relations cases. Criminal cases I have defended and tried include ones for rape, burglary, mail fraud, robbery and armed criminal action, and assault. I have represented plaintiffs and defendants. I have acquired an excellent working knowledge of the law, the Rules of Evidence and the Rules of Civil Procedure. In the past ten years I have won or obtained good results in

approximately eighty per cent of the cases I have tried. I believe that I have the demeanor and patience which are necessary attributes for one to be a good judge. I will always treat attorneys and litigants with courtesy and respect.

The following cases are some specific examples of cases I have tried that would be examples reflecting which I consider to be the excellent quality of my abilities as a trial lawyer.

I tried the case of *Biter v. Moses*, No. 11V018501517, in the Circuit Court for St. Charles County. The case involved the alleged conversion of a tenant's personal property by a landlord alleged to be worth \$100,000.00. I defended the landlord. The case was tried twice. The first trial resulted in the court granting my Motion for a Mistrial. The case was tried again and resulted in a jury verdict for my client, the defendant.

In the case of *State v. Perkins*, I represented the defendant who was charged with robbery and armed criminal action. My client was convicted of the robbery charge. However, the jury acquitted him on the armed criminal action charge which prevented a mandatory three year sentence.

In the case of *Victor Flanigan v. National Supermarkets*, No. 922-00846 in the Circuit court for the City of St. Louis, I represented the Plaintiff in a bodily injury claim arising out of a slip and fall. The defense presented evidence that my client had a manslaughter conviction and had served several years in prison. I was still able to obtain a jury verdict in the amount of \$80,000.00.

In the case of *Darlene Wells v. Schnucks Markets*, No. 952-08212 in the Circuit Court for the City of St. Louis. I represented the plaintiff who had slipped and fell on ice on the defendant's parking lot. I was able to obtain a jury verdict in the amount of \$23,950.00.

I represented the defendant in the case of *Wadie Gregory v. Yusef Scoggin*, No. 972-0056 in the Circuit Court for the City of St. Louis, which was a bodily injury claim against my client arising out of a rear end automobile accident. Even though the case was one of clear liability the jury awarded plaintiff only the amount of the medical bills and less than one-half of what was sought for property damage.

I have obtained a number of summary judgments on behalf of my clients. One example is the case of *Schneider v. C&G Midwest Insurors*, No. 98 CC-001367 in Circuit Court for St. Louis County. The plaintiffs home sustained fire damage and filed suit against the defendant, their insurance agency, whom I represented, claiming that the agency was negligent by not obtaining insurance to cover their fire claim. I obtained summary judgment in favor of the insurance agency. Another example is the case of *Voyles v. Turner Chevrolet, et al*, No. CV 599-569 in the Circuit Court for St. Francois County. Plaintiff filed suit against his employer *Turner Chevrolet* and a co-employee, both of whom I represented, alleging this his privacy was invaded because he was secretly videotaped at work. I obtained summary judgment in favor of my clients *Turner Chevrolet* and plaintiff's co-employee who did the videotaping.



12. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?

No.

If yes, provide details, including the style of the case, cause number, name of the jurisdiction, and date of conviction.

N/A.

13. Have you ever been sued by a client or been a party to any other litigation, other than as guardian ad litem, plaintiff ad litem or defendant ad litem?

Yes

If yes, provide details, including the style of the case, cause number, name of the jurisdiction, and the approximate year in which such litigation was commenced and in which it was terminated:

*Wayne Cozart v. Lawrence Permuter, et al.* The case was filed in the St. Louis County Circuit Court in approximately 1975. I do not have the case number. The plaintiff alleged that I wrongfully executed on his automobile. The Department of Revenue provided me with inaccurate information that led to the attachment of plaintiff's automobile. The case was settled within a few months after it was filed.

14. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or professional conduct by a court or by any bar association or committee thereof?

No.

If yes, provide details:

N/A.

15. Have you ever been held in contempt of court?

No.

If yes, provide details:

N/A.

16. If you are or were a member of the Judiciary of the State of Missouri, please state:

- (a) Whether an order of reprimand, removal, retirement, suspension or other disciplinary action has ever been entered against you by the Supreme Court of Missouri for breach of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Canons of Judicial Conduct? If yes, state the nature of such breach, the date discipline was imposed and the exact nature and duration of the discipline imposed:

N/A

- (b) Whether a reprimand or admonishment has ever been entered against you by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline for any of the causes specified in Rule 12.07 of the Supreme Court Rules Governing the Judiciary.

N/A

- (c) Whether, to your knowledge, you have been a subject of a complaint and investigation by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline, which did not result in any action by the Commission? If yes, provide details:

N/A.

17. To your knowledge, have you been investigated by a court or by any bar association or committee thereof for breach of ethics or professional conduct?

No.

If yes, provide details.

N/A.

18. List all bar association and other professional societies, of which you are a member, with any offices held and dates:

Missouri Bar Association

19. Describe your community activities, including any organizations, not listed above, with which you are affiliated:

None

20. Do you now hold or have you ever held any elective or appointive public office or position?

No.

If yes, provide details:

N/A.

21. Provide the branches and date of (a) military service, or (b) other public service, not otherwise covered in this application. If discharged from the military, was the discharge other than honorable? If military service continues, so state:

United States Army Reserve 1968 - 1974  
85<sup>th</sup> Headquarters, Ozark Division.  
Basic Training and Infantry Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey.  
I received an honorable discharge.

22. List any professional articles or books which have been published or any special recognition or award of a professional nature which you have received:

N/A.

23. Furnish the names and addresses, including zip codes and telephone numbers of not more than five persons, who are not judges, as references with respect to your judicial qualifications:

James E. Crowe, Jr.  
Chief Criminal Division  
United States Attorneys Office  
Home: 6546 Itaska  
St. Louis, Missouri 63109  
Office Phone: 314-539-6849  
Home Phone: 314-352-9464

James G. Martin  
Attorney at Law  
211 North Broadway  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102  
Office Phone: 314-621-5070  
Home Phone: 314-962-3243



Edward L. Dowd  
Attorney at Law  
7733 Forsyth Boulevard - Suite 1410  
Clayton, Missouri 63105  
Office Phone: 314-889-7300  
Home Phone: 314-997-6432

J. Martin Hadican  
Attorney at Law  
225 South Meramec - Suite 832  
Clayton, Missouri 63105  
Office Phone: 314-863-0050  
Home Phone: 314-434-7388

Sanford Goffstein  
Attorney at Law  
Goffstein, Raskas, Pomerantz,  
Kraus & Sherman LLC  
7701 Clayton Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63117  
Office Phone: 314-721-7171  
Home Phone: 314-803-1000

24. State any additional data you deem relevant:

I believe that I have the knowledge of the law, Rules of Evidence and trial experience to be an excellent judge. I will always be respectful of attorneys and litigants. I will never abuse my power as a judge. If I do not know the answer to a legal issue, I will ask the attorneys to brief the issue and I will read what they provide me. I am extremely familiar with the Missouri Approved Instructions. I will rule promptly on motions and other matters. I will not take weeks, or months, to make a decisive ruling. In summation, I believe that I have all of the qualities necessary to serve the citizens of St. Louis County.

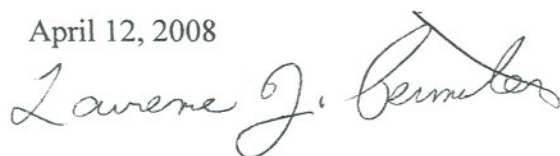
By my signature to this application, I authorize (1) the Commission by its chairperson to obtain relevant information, including but not limited to documents, records and files with respect to my medical, police or disciplinary records, and (2) the Commission and its members to obtain additional relevant information regarding my qualifications as well as the accuracy of my responses to the questions on this application, with the understanding that the information described in (1) and (2) above is available only to the members of the Twenty-First Circuit Judicial Commission.

Notwithstanding the above, in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 10, as amended effective February 29, 2008, if I am one of the three nominees listed on the certificate of nomination sent to the Governor, I authorize the Commission to send a complete copy of this application to the Governor and publicly release a copy of the application with personal and confidential information redacted as identified on the cover page of this application.

I hereby certify that all my statements as made above are correct, and that if I am appointed to the office of Associate Circuit Judge of the Circuit Court of the County of St. Louis, I will accept the appointment, qualify, and promptly enter upon the performance of the duties of that office.

DATE: April 12, 2008

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence J. Bermudez".

**TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS**  
**ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE**

**Lawrence J. Permuter**  
**6350 Clayton Road - Unite 105**  
**Richmond Heights, Missouri 63117**  
**Home Phone (314) 647-1075**  
**Cell Phone (314) 920-0782**

**LIST**

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**9.**

***Ruthann Wolff v Apartment Exchange, Inc.***

Cause No. 05CC002214  
Date of Trial: June 12, 2006  
Court: St. Louis County Circuit Court  
Second Chair  
Jury Trial

Opposing Counsel: Thomas P. Germeroth  
Kolker & Germeroth LLC  
7730 Carondelet - Suite 310  
Clayton, Missouri 63105  
(314) 727-4529  
Fax: 727-8529

*Description of Case:* This was a slip and fall on ice case. I was second chair to Sandy Goffstein representing the defendant. Plaintiff sustained a broken leg. The verdict was in the amount of Seventy Thousand Dollars.



***Michael Schaller v. Wen Sun d/b/a Panda Chinese Food***

Cause No. 05AC-16896-A

Date of Trial: June 28, 2006

Court: St. Louis County Associate Circuit Court

First Chair

Jury Trial

Opposing Counsel: G. Richard Fox  
Anastasia L. Brubaker  
Fox, Heller, Gallagher & Finley LLP  
1034 S. Brentwood Boulevard, Suite 1555  
St. Louis, Missouri 63117  
(314) 725-1780  
Fax: 725-0101

*Description of Case:* Plaintiff slipped on water in a restaurant and claimed personal injury. I represented the defendant. The case resulted in a defendant's verdict.

***Deborah Bagwell v. Sugarwood Condominium Association and Estes Home Maintenance  
And Custom Painting***

Cause No. 04-CV128912

Date of Trial: July 5, 2006

Court: St. Charles County Circuit Court

First Chair

Jury Trial

Opposing Counsel: Ryan R. Cox  
The Londoff Law Firm  
320 North Fifth Street  
St. Charles, Missouri 63301  
Attorney for Plaintiff ***Deborah Bagwell***  
636-946-6886

Martin J. Buckley  
Attorney at Law  
1139 Olive Street, Suite 800  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Attorney for Defendant ***Sugarwood Condominium Association***  
(314) 621-3434  
Fax: 621-3485

*Description of Case:* I represented defendant ***Estes*** in a slip and fall on ice case filed by plaintiff, who broke her leg, against ***Estes***, a snow removal company, and the ***Sugarwood Condominium Association***. The jury returned a defendant's verdict in favor of my client ***Estes***. The jury awarded plaintiff approximately Twelve Thousand Dollars against the Condominium Association.

***Arthur Brown, et al v. The Osborne Financial Group, Inc.***

Cause No. 03CV-836700  
Date of Trial: March 1, 2007  
Court: Circuit Court of Crawford County  
First Chair  
Jury Trial

Opposing Counsel: Mike Cerulo  
Brown & James, P.C.  
1010 Market Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Phone: 314-421-3400  
Fax: 421-3128

*Description of Case:* Plaintiffs owned a mobile home that burned. I represented defendant ***Osborne***, an insurance agency, which was sued for failure to obtain insurance covering the mobile home. The jury returned a plaintiffs' verdict in the amount of Ninety Eight Thousand Six Hundred Dollars. My motion for a new trial was granted, and the case will be tried again this summer.

***John P. Hickman v. John Stewart and Evelyn Stewart***

Cause No. 03CV612078  
Date of Trial: April 26, 2007  
Court: Circuit Court of St. Francois County  
First Chair  
Jury Trial

Opposing Counsel: Derrick Kirby  
Carmody MacDonald, PC.  
120 South Central Avenue, Suite 1800  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
(314) 854-8600  
Fax: 854-8661

*Description of Case:* I represented defendants, who were homeowners, in a lawsuit brought by plaintiff, a gas meter reader who stepped in a hole on my clients' lawn resulting in an injury to his ankle. The jury returned a defendants' verdict.

***Anthony and Beth Daniele v. The Department of Conservation and Wehmeyer Farms, Inc.***

Cause No. 05CC-5481  
Date of Trial: July 9, 2007  
Court: Circuit Court of St. Louis County  
First Chair  
Jury Trial

Opposing Chair: Stephen B. Evans  
Attorney at Law  
8000 Maryland Avenue, Suite 640  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
(314) 721-1024  
Fax: 721-1741

*Description of Case:* The plaintiffs **Daniele** filed suit against the Missouri Department of Conservation alleging damage to their property in the course of the construction of a visitors center by the Department. The Department filed a counterclaim against the **Daniele** seeking One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars because the Department had to build a water line around **Danieles'** property even though **Daniele** had granted an easement to the Department across their property. **Daniele** filed a third-party claim against my client **Wehmeyer Farms**, a construction company, seeking indemnification from **Wehmeyer** in the event the jury returned a verdict against the **Danieles**. The Court granted my motion for a directed verdict.



**TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT – COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS**  
**ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE**

**Lawrence J. Permuter**  
**6350 Clayton Road - Unit 105**  
**St. Louis, Missouri 63117**

**LIST**

**EXHIBIT B**

10.

*Shelor v. Wofford, et al*, 37 S.W.3d 418 (Mo.App.2001). I participated in the preparation of the brief, and I argued the case.

*Boling v. Boling*, 683 S.W.2d 661 (Mo.App.1984). I prepared the brief and argued the case.

*Soutiea v. American National Insurance*, 595 S.W.2d 467 (Mo.App.1980). I prepared the brief and argued the case.

*Carroll v. State*, 603 S.W.2d 66 (Mo.App.1980). I prepared the brief and argued the case.

*State v. Carroll*, 543 S.W.2d 48 (Mo.App.1976). I prepared the brief and argued the case.

*State v. Sanders*, 541 S.W.2d 782 (Mo.App.1976). I prepared the brief and argued the case.

*Morehouse v. Behlmann Pontiac GMC Truck, Inc.*, 31 S.W.3d 55 (Mo.App.2000). I participated in the preparation of the brief.

*Windsor Insurance Company v. Lucas*, 24 S.W.3d 151 (Mo.App.2000). I participated in the preparation of the brief.

*United States v. Michael Johnson*, 529 F.2d 581 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1976). I prepared the brief and argued the case.

**TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS**  
**ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE**

**LAWRENCE J. PERMUTER**  
**6350 Clayton Road - Unit 105**  
**Richmond Heights, Missouri 63117**

***BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH***

Mr. Permuter received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Missouri at St. Louis in 1970. He obtained his law degree from Washington University School of Law in 1973. He has practiced as a trial lawyer for thirty-five years and has represented plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of civil and criminal cases. Mr. Permuter is married to Darlene Permuter, They reside in Richmond Heights.